

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 01145 240335Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 STR-06
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P R 240305Z JAN 78
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8722
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, HK
SUBJECT: SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES TO CIRCUMVENT FOOTWEAR ORDERLY
MARKETING AGREEMENTS (OMA)

REF: STATE 8343

1. CONGEN ECONOMIC OFFICER HAS DISCUSSED CONTENTS OF REFTEL WITH
HONG KONG ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF TRADE MIKE PAGLIARI. PAGLIARI
REITERATED THE HKG'S WILLINGNESS TO MONITOR HONG KONG FOOTWEAR
EXPORTS FOR EVIDENCE OF POSSIBLE CIRCUMVENTION OF TAIWAN AND KOREA
ORDERLY MARKETING AGREEMENTS (OMAS). THE HKG DOES
NOT WANT TAIWAN OR KOREA PRODUCTS SHIPPED TO HONG KONG FOR
FINAL ASSEMBLY AND EXPORT, SINCE THAT WOULD MEAN LITTLE REAL
INCOME FOR HONG KONG. HOWEVER, HE ALSO STATED HKG WOULD NOT
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OBJECT TO TAIWANESE OR KOREAN COMPANIES BOLSTERING HONG KONG'S
OWN EXPORT FOOTWEAR INDUSTRY, IF FULL PRODUCTION PLANTS WERE
ESTABLISHED TO HONG KONG. NO SUCH MOVES HAVE THUS FAR OCCURED,
HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO PAGLIARI.

2. HONG KONG GOVERNMENT TRADE STATISTICS FOR JANUARY THROUGH
OCTOBER 1977 (LATEST AVAILABLE) SHOW SUBSTANTIAL ANNUAL GROWTH

IN FOOTWEAR EXPORTS TO THE US AND OTHER MARKETS, WITH PLASTIC AND LEATHER FOOTWEAR SHOWING THE LARGEST INCREASES. CONGEN HAS NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO DETERMINE WHAT PROPORTION OF THESE INCREASES STEMS FROM INCREASED DOMESTIC PRODUCTION AND WHAT PROPORTION COULD PROPERLY BE CONSIDERED RE-EXPORTS. WE HAVE ASKED HKG FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND DETAILED ANALYSIS OF TRADE AND OTHER DATA WILL FOLLOW BY SEPTTEL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. CONGEN WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S SENDING COPIES OF TAIWAN AND KOREA OMAS, WITH LISTS OF AFFECTED TSUSA CATEGORIES AND CORRELATION TO SITC CATEGORIES. TO FACILITATE BOTH CONGEN AND HKG MONITORING OF TRADE PATTERNS, WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SAMPLES (OR ILLUSTRATIONS) AND TSUSA NUMBERS OF FOOTWEAR PRODUCTS THAT US MANUFACTURERS SUSPECT ARE BEING SHIPPED VIA HONG KONG TO AVOID OMAS. NAMES OF HONG KONG FIRMS BELIEVED OR ALLEGED TO BE INVOLVED WOULD OF COURSE ALSO BE HELPFUL.
SHOESMITH

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